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ORPHANS OF THE STORM

Photoplay in twelve reels

Adapted from the Palmer-Jackson version
of the play "The Two Orphans", written
by D'Ennery and Cormon

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"ORPHANS OF THE STORM"
Produced by D. W. GRIFFITH
(Adapted from the Palmer-Jackson version of the play
"THE TWO ORPHANS" written by D'Ennery and Cormen-by
arrangement with Kate Claxton)

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In the Normandy village, everyone knows the two orphans, Henriette and Louise Girard. One is blind and both are beautiful. Visitors from Paris have told Henriette that Louise might regain her eyesight through an operation by a famous oculist in Paris.

So they take the coach for Paris, after Louise has made Henriette promise she will not marry and leave her. Henriette says: "Sweetness, I will never marry until you see the man I am to wed."

An accident interrupts the progress of the coach before a chateau of one of the nobility, blocking the equipage of the Marquis de Praille. After lashing the riders, the Marquis swaggers insolently around to view the passengers, and fascinated by Henriette's fresh beauty, assumes liberties in his conduct.

When Henriette reproaches him and repels him, he directs a servant to proceed in advance of the coach to Paris and abduct Henriette, taking her to his gardens where a great party of gorgeous and scandalous nature is to be given. The girls, laughing at Henriette's account of the Marquis wearing a muff, resume the journey, speaking to all strangers they pass.

Arrived in Paris, they are alone, the elderly relative who comes to meet them having been decoyed away.

With the shadows, the henchmen of the Marquis come,

seize Henriette, and leave Louise alone, to be found later by Pierre Frochard. Madame Frochard and her boon companion and son, Jacques, despise Pierre as a cripple and weakling. Pierre, enraptured by the beauty of the blind girl, and with sympathy of one also afflicted, adores her and takes her to his mother. The Madame accepts her as one who will be useful in singing through the streets for charity.

Henriette recovers from her swoon in the midst of the garden fete. Gorgeously dressed fashionables are all about. The Marquis demands a kiss. She flees from one ardent face to another, seeking a friend. With passionate mischief, the merry-makers pursue her, when the Chevalier de Vaudrey, guest at the party, approaches.

"Is there no gentleman here to protect me?," cries Henriette.

"We are all gentlemen," they laugh.

"Then is there no man of honor?" she implores.

"May I offer you the services of my honor and my sword?" the Chevalier answers, won by the pity of her distraction.

The Marquis forbids anyone leaving the garden. The Chevalier insists. A duel follows. The Marquis is injured. The Chevalier with Henriette flees to safety.

But Henriette cannot find Louise. After establishing her in a room, the Chevalier goes to the home of his relatives the Count and Countess de Linieres. The Count has news from the King that the Chevalier is to wed a girl whom the King has selected.

The Chevalier refuses and tells of his love for Henriette.

The Count insists to the development of a quarrel. A few days later, the Chevalier asks the Countess to visit Henriette. Then Henriette tells her that Louise is not a real sister, but an orphan found in front of Notre Dame as an infant abandoned and brought to the Girard home.

The Countess recognizes the circumstances as identifying her lost daughter, born from an early marriage with a commoner. Her father had killed the husband and sent the baby away to free his daughter from such an alliance, shameful because the husband was not a nobleman.

As they talk, singing from the street below reminds Henriette of Louise's voice. Then she rushes to the balcony, sees the dirty beggar girl, fails to recognize Louise, hears the voice again, then calls, "Louise!" Louise answers, "Henriette, come, come, Henriette!"

As Henriette dashes to the stairway to go to her sister, the door to her room opens to admit a squad of soldiers under the command of the Count De Liners. He orders Henriette's arrest. Being Prefect of Police of Paris, he has such authority. The Countess cannot intercede, for she refuses to reveal the early secret to her great husband.

Henriette goes to prison. She is ordered deported to America. Louise returns to the cellar with the debauched Frochards.

The contempt of the noble for the commoner has created a tyranny that is beyond tolerance. Rebellion occurs in Paris.

The prison is stormed and Henriette is freed with others.

The Chevalier remains devoted in his love. Two men, Danton and Robespierre, control Paris. Henriette knows Danton, but not by name. He has sympathized with her in the loss of her sister when he hears it from others on the street.

One night, when assassins pursue him, he flees for protection to the nearest house, which is the one in which Henriette lives. She takes him to her room, and nurses him through the night. When Danton leaves the following morning, Robespierre sees him. Robespierre has often told Danton, "Women will be your downfall."

The Chevalier, banished from Paris by the radicals, returns in disguise and visits Henriette to see that she is safe. He is recognized, followed, and captured in Henriette's room.

With Robespierre's assent he is sentenced to the guillotine. And with him is sentenced Henriette as being his intimate friend.

Danton, entering the room where stand the doomed, sees Henriette. She points out the Chevalier to him, and Danton recognizes him as one who had fed the poor months before.

He remembers Henriette and how she had saved him. Danton's desperate efforts to spare them, the recovery of Louise's eyesight, the reconciliation of the Count and Countess with their nephew, the Chevalier, the restoration to the Countess of her daughter, Louise, and the acceptance by Louise of the Chevalier as Henriette's betrothed, is the finale of the last act.

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